Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to reduce the threshold for coverage under the provident fund from 20 employees to 10 has been referred to the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) for tripartite discussion. It is too early to assess the impact on employment in the event the threshold of coverage is reduced.

Industrial Disputes and Contract Labour Acts

2049. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act are proposed to be considered in the light of the report of the Second Labour Commission which is yet to be received by Government; and

(b) if so, by when the report of the Commission is expected to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Amendments in labour laws is a continuous process and involves consultation with the tripartite partners and takes time. It may, therefore, not be administratively expedient to put a stop to the process of carrying out amendments to the existing laws which are long panding merely because National Commission on Labour has been constituted.

(b) The Second National Commission on Labour constituted vide Resolution dated 15th Oct., 1999 will make its recommendations as soon as practicable but not later than 24 months from the date of publication of the Resolution in the Gazette of India. In other words, the report of the Commission is expected to be received by 15.10.2001.

Working of EPF

2050. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revitalise, streamline and modernise working of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in the country under the 'Reinventing EPF India' plan unveiled by him recently;

(b) if so, the features of the plan;